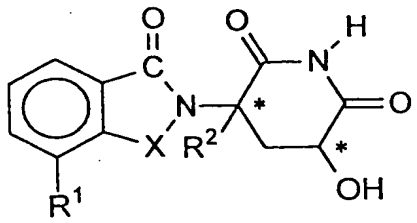
What is claimed is:

1. A compound selected from the group consisting of (*a*) an isolindoline of the formula:



wherein:

the carbon atoms designated * constitute centers of chirality;

X is -C(O)- or -CH_2-;

R^1 is alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or -NHR^3;

R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or halogeno; and

R^3 is hydrogen,

alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, unsubstituted or substituted with alkoxy of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halo, amino, or alkylamino of 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

cycloalkyl of 3 to 18 carbon atoms,

phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halo, amino, or alkylamino of 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

benzyl, unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halo, amino, or alkylamino of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or

-COR^4 in which

R^4 is hydrogen,

alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, unsubstituted or substituted with alkoxy of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halo, amino, or alkylamino of 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

cycloalkyl of 3 to 18 carbon atoms,

phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halo, amino, or alkylamino of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or

benzyl, unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, halo, amino, or alkylamino of 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

and

(*b*) the acid addition salts of said isoindoline which are susceptible of protonation.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 in which in said isoindoline derivative R^2 is hydrogen, methyl, or fluoro.

3. A compound according to Claim 2 in which R^2 is hydrogen.

4. A compound according to Claim 3 in which said isoindoline derivative R^1 is amino.

5. A compound according to Claim 4 in which said isoindoline derivative X is -C(O).

6 A compound according to Claim 4 in which said isoindoline derivative X is $-CH_2-$.

7. A compound according to Claim 3 in which said isoindoline derivative R^1 is methyl.

8. A compound according to Claim 2 in which said isoindoline derivative X is -C(O)-.

9. A compound according to Claim 2 in which said isoindoline derivative X is $-CH_2-$.

10. The compound according to Claim 1 which is 2-(2,6-dioxo-3-hydroxypiperidin-5-yl)-4-aminoisoindoline-1,3-dione.

11. The compound according to Claim 1 which is 2-(2,6-dioxo-3-hydroxypiperidin-5-yl)-4-aminoisoindolin-1-one.

12. The compound according to Claim 1 which is 2-(2,6-dioxo-3-hydroxypiperidin-5-yl)-4-methylisoindoline-1,3-dione.

13. The compound according to Claim 1 which is 2-(2,6-dioxo-3-hydroxypiperidin-5-yl)-4-methylisoindolin-1-one.

14. A method of reducing or inhibiting undesirable levels of TNFα in a mammal which comprises administering thereto an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

15. A method of treating in a mammal a disease selected from the group consisting of inflammatory disease, autoimmune disease, arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, aphthous ulcers, cachexia, graft versus host disease, asthma, adult respiratory distress syndrome, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, which comprises administering thereto an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

16. A method of treating cancer in a mammal which comprises administering thereto an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

17. A method of treating undesirable angiogenesis in a mammal which comprises administering thereto an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (*i*) a quantity of a compound according to Claim 1 that upon administration in a single or multiple dose regimen is pharmaceutically effective and (*ii*) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.